

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, August 27, 2004*

## MPDC STRESSES "STREET SMARTS" IN WAKE OF STREET ROBBERIES

The MPDC responded quickly this past week to a series of street robberies in neighborhoods of the Third District, one of which turned fatal. Fifty-five-year-old Adrien Alstad, a popular waiter at a Dupont Circle restaurant, was shot and killed early Monday morning in the 1800 block of R Street, NW, in an apparent robbery attempt. Two days later, an alert citizen called 9-1-1 after witnessing a robbery at 6th and R Streets, NW, and police quickly apprehended three suspects. Further investigation revealed that one of the robbery suspects, a 19-year-old Northwest DC man, was implicated in the Alstad murder. He was subsequently charged with Felony Murder while Armed. The MPDC continues to focus on streets robberies in the Third District. Officers have made more than 100 robbery arrests in 3D so far this year. In addition, the MPDC is urging residents to exercise "street smarts" in an attempt to make themselves a more difficult target for robbers. Among other tips, police urge residents out on the street to walk in groups when possible, preferably in well lighted areas. Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible and close to the curb, avoiding doorways, bushes and other potential hiding places. Avoid walking in alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas or other secluded locations. Try to remain aware of your surroundings, avoiding the use of headphones or other potential distractions. If you instincts tell you something is wrong, trust them – and try to get out of the situation. However, if you are confronted by a robber, do not resist. You can always replace personal items.

- ① Get more tips on how to protect yourself against robbery and assault at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/robassault.shtm>

- For more information about the arrest of the suspect in the Adrien Alstad homicide, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2855>

## WITH SCHOOLS BACK IN SESSION, THE MPDC EMPHASIZES SAFETY

DC Public Schools are back in session on Septmeber 1, and most private and parochial schools will have resumed classes by the day after Labor Day. With a new school year upon us, the MPDC is encouraging students, parents, motorists and other residents to be especially safety-conscious. The Department reminds motorists that the speed limit in school zones is 15 mph; officers will be enforcing the speed limit around schools. Motorists should also pay close attention to school buses and pay particular attention to bus signals when children are being loaded and unloaded. Students are reminded to walk on the sidewalk and cross the street in crosswalks only. Inside the schools, the MPDC is working cooperatively with DCPS to enhance safety for students, faculty and staff. Anticipated action by the DC Council will likely transfer management responsibility for school safety from the DCPS to the MPDC, but DCPS remains in charge of school security as the new school year starts. However, the MPDC is committing additional resources to school patrols this year, including an increase in the number of School Resource Officers in senior high, junior high and middle schools, along with enhanced training and supervision for the SROs. The additional officers in the schools will not diminish neighborhood patrols. In fact, the SROs will be working more closely with local Police Service Area (PSA) officers to coordinate their crime-fighting activities.

- ① Learn more about school safety and the resources available to students, parents and staff at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtm>

- ① For information on school bus safety, visit:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolbus.shtm>

- ① Safety on college campuses is also a concern of the MPDC. Learn more in the Department's "College Safety Handbook," available online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/campus.shtm>

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR MEANS EARLIER CURFEW FOR DC TEENS

With the new school year about to begin, the MPDC reminds young people and their families that DC's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on weeknights. Starting September 1 and continuing through next June, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. During the months of July and August only, curfew hours are 12:01 am to 6 am, seven nights a week. Under the Juvenile Curfew Act of 1995, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within DC during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities, such as work, school, religious or civic activities. As the new school year starts, the MPDC is stepping up curfew enforcement as part of its juvenile crime prevention strategy. The Department has also opened two curfew centers—at Douglas Junior High School in Southeast and Shaw Junior High School in Northwest—where officers now bring most curfew violators. Later this year, the curfew centers will include social services that will be made available to curfew violators and their families.

- ① Learn more about DC's teen curfew at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm>

## CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES SUPERVISORY PROMOTIONS

As part of his continuing efforts to strengthen supervision and leadership in the MPDC, Chief Ramsey this past week announced a number of promotions to the ranks of captain, lieutenant and sergeant. In all, nine lieutenants are being promoted to captain; 26 sergeants are being promoted to lieutenant, and 38 officers and detectives are being promoted to sergeant. All of the promotional candidates must complete a supervisory training course and pass a physical exam before officially receiving their promotions. The Chief called the promotions “a major step forward in our plan to put more resources in the community and establish greater leadership and accountability throughout our organization.” Specific assignments for the newly promoted supervisors have not been finalized, although the promotions will allow for additional supervisory resources for PSA teams, school safety and various specialized units.

- ① Read more about this neighborhood partnership success story at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/3rd/ss\\_3D\\_bbal04.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/3rd/ss_3D_bbal04.shtm)

## NEWS & NOTES

**Chief Ramsey on News Channel 8, WTOP.** Beginning on Wednesday, September 1, Chief Ramsey starts a new monthly appearance on the “News Talk” program, hosted by Bruce DuPuyt on News Channel 8. During the live program, which airs from 4-5 pm, the Chief discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from viewers. The Chief will appear on the program the first Wednesday of every month. Also, this upcoming week, the Chief has his regular monthly appearance on “Ask the Chief,” from 10-11 am, on Thursday, September 2, on WTOP radio.

**New Photo Radar Enforcement Zone.** In its continuing efforts to combat speeding in DC neighborhoods, the MPDC has begun deploying photo radar in a new enforcement zone, located in the 1000-2000 blocks of Alabama Avenue, SE, in the Seventh District. The MPDC now has a total of 74 enforcement zones in which photo radar vehicles may be deployed, as well as one stationary photo radar camera, in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NW. Details at <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2857>.

**New “PSA Finder” Feature.** The MPDC has teamed up with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to create a new feature through the MPDC website that allows residents to easily identify their Police Service Area (or PSA). Through OCTO's “DC Guide,” visitors can enter their address and bring up not only their PSA, but also a wide range of resources in their neighborhood. With the recent realignment of the PSA boundaries, this feature should be particularly valuable to residents who may not be familiar with their new PSA. To access the feature, click on the “DC Guide” link on <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm>.

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides (as of 8/27/04)

- 2004: 125
- 2003: 171
- % Change: -26.9%
- Closure Rate: 54.4% (68 closures)

#### Adult Arrests (week end. 8/21/04)

- Total: 977
- Drugs: 158
- Weapons: 19
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 17
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 31

#### Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/25/04)

- August: 121
- 2004 Total: 1,322

#### Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/27/04)

- 2004: 35
- 2003: 45
- % Change: -22.2%